LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) An adhesive binding member for use in binding a stack of sheets, said binding member having reduced transverse curl and made in accordance with the following method:

providing a substrate having a length along a first axis and a width along a transverse axis normal to the first axis and a first pair of substrate edges parallel to the first axis and a second pair of substrate edges parallel to the transverse axis;

applying a layer of molten, heat-activated adhesive over at least a majority of all a surface area of the substrate;

cooling the layer of molten adhesive so that the layer is in a solid state; and

subsequent to the cooling and prior to application of the binding member to a stack to be bound, mechanically deforming a surface of the layer of adhesive to a degree such that curling of the binding member along the transverse axis is substantially reduced, with the first and second pair of substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 2 wherein the mechanically deforming includes applying multiple grooves to the surface of the layer of adhesive in a direction generally parallel to the first axis.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) An adhesive binding member for binding a stack of sheets comprising:

a substrate having a first axis disposed along a length of the substrate and a transverse axis normal to the first axis disposed along a width of the substrate; and

a layer of heat-activated adhesive disposed on a first surface of the substrate substantially along a full length of the substrate, having an exposed surface containing mechanical deformations which were introduced into the adhesive when the adhesive was is in a cooled state and of a nature to substantially reduce curling of the binding member along the transverse axis.

7. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 6 wherein the mechanical deformations include a multiplicity of grooves formed in the exposed surface.

8. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 6 wherein the substrate includes a first pair of substrate edges parallel to the first axis and a second pair of substrate edges parallel to the transverse axis, with the first and second pair of substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive and wherein at least a majority of the first surface of the substrate is covered by the heat-activated adhesive.

9. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 7 wherein the grooves are disposed in directions substantially parallel to the first axis.

10. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 6 wherein the mechanical deformations include a multiplicity of punctures in the exposed surface.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Presently Amended) A binding member formed in accordance with the following method comprising:

providing a substrate having a first axis and transverse axis normal to the first axis, with said substrate including an elongated adhesive receiving surface having a surface length along the first axis greater than a surface width along the transverse axis, with the adhesive receiving surface being entirely substantially smooth and with a substrate surface directly opposite the adhesive receiving surface being entirely substantially smooth;

applying a layer of molten, heated-activated adhesive over substantially all of the elongated adhesive receiving surface of the substrate;

cooling the layer of molten adhesive so that the adhesive layer is in a solid state; and

subsequent to the cooling, mechanically deforming an exposed surface of the adhesive layer in regions of the adhesive surface directly opposite the elongated adhesive receiving surface, with the deforming being carried out so that essentially none of the adhesive is removed and with the deforming resulting in a substantial reduction in binding member curl along the transverse axis.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A binder strip having reduced transverse curl and made in accordance with the following method comprising:

providing a substrate having a first axis and transverse axis normal to the first axis and including a first pair of substrate edges parallel to the first axis and a second pair of substrate edges parallel to the transverse axis;

applying a layer of molten, heated-activated adhesive over at least a majority of a surface of the substrate;

cooling the layer of molten adhesive so that the adhesive layer is in a solid state; and

subsequent to the cooling, forming a multiplicity of grooves in an exposed surface of the adhesive layer;

with the first and second pairs of substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Presently Amended) An adhesive binder strip for binding a stack of sheets comprising:

an elongated substrate having a length along a longitudinal axis which is greater than a substrate width along a transverse axis normal to the longitudinal axis; and

a layer of heat-activated adhesive disposed on a surface of the substrate and extending substantially a full length of the substrate along the longitudinal axis, with the layer having a multiplicity of grooves formed in an exposed surface of the adhesive which extend at least 20% of the way through a thickness of the layer of adhesive and wherein the elongated substrate includes a pair of opposing substrate edges parallel to the longitudinal axis with the substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive, with the adhesive covering at least a majority of all of the surface of the substrate and wherein the multiplicity of grooves operate to substantially reduce binder strip curl along the transverse axis.

20. (Presently Amended) An adhesive binding member comprising:

a substrate having an elongated region for receiving an adhesive, said elongated region having a length sufficient to extend a full length of the edge of a stack bound by the binding member and a region width smaller than the region length, with said elongated region having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis normal to the longitudinal axis; and

a layer of heated-activated adhesive disposed over substantially all of the elongated region of the substrate when the adhesive was in a molten form, with the adhesive layer including a multiplicity of grooves formed in an exposed surface of the adhesive when the adhesive was no longer in ~~a~~ the molten form, with a location and depth of such grooves being of a degree such that curling of the binder member along the transverse axis is substantially reduced.

21. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 20 wherein all substrate surfaces directly opposite the grooves in the adhesive are substantially smooth surfaces.

22. (Presently Amended) An adhesive binding member for binding an edge of a stack of sheets comprising:

a substrate having an elongated region for receiving an adhesive on a first substrate surface, said elongated region having a length along a longitudinal axis and a width along a transverse axis normal to the elongated axis, with the elongated region extending along substantially a full length of the edge of the stack after binding and with the elongated region length being greater than the region width; and

a layer of heat-activated adhesive disposed over substantially all of the elongated region and no other region of the substrate, with the layer having an exposed surface containing mechanical deformations ~~introduced when the adhesive was in a molten form~~, with the mechanical deformations being of a nature to substantially reduce curling of the binding member along the transverse axis, wherein the first surface of the substrate and a second surface of the substrate opposite the first surface are both substantially smooth in all of the substrate surface regions directly opposite the mechanical deformations in the adhesive.

23. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 22 wherein the mechanical deformations include a multiplicity of grooves formed in the exposed surface.

24. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 23 wherein the grooves extend at least 20% of the way through the total thickness of the adhesive layer.

25. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 24 wherein the grooves are disposed in directions substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

26. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binder strip of Claim 22 wherein the mechanical deformations include a multiplicity of punctures in the exposed surface.

27. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 2 wherein a first surface of the substrate on which the adhesive is disposed and a second surface of the substrate opposite the first surface, are both substantially entirely smooth substrate surfaces in all surface regions opposite deformations introduced into the adhesive during the mechanically deforming.

28. (Previously Presented) The binder strip of Claim 6 wherein the second surface of the substrate along with the first surface of the substrate are both substantially entirely smooth in all of the substrate surface regions directly opposite the mechanical deformations in the adhesive.

29. (Previously Presented) The binder strip of Claim 8 wherein the binding member is a binder strip and wherein the substrate is an elongated substrate with the length being greater than the width.

30. (Previously Presented) The binder strip of Claim 19 wherein the adhesive is disposed on a first surface of the substrate and wherein a second surface of the substrate, opposite the first surface, along with the first surface are both substantially entirely smooth in all of the substrate surface regions that are directly opposite the grooves in the adhesive.

31. (Previously Presented) The binder strip of Claim 19 wherein the grooves are formed in the adhesive after the adhesive has been applied to the substrate in molten form and cooled.

32. (Previously presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 31 wherein the grooves are disposed in directions substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

33. (Previously Presented) The adhesive binding member of Claim 22 wherein the binding member is a binder strip and wherein the substrate is an elongated substrate having a length along the longitudinal axis which is greater than a width normal to the longitudinal axis and wherein the elongated substrate includes two opposite substrate edges parallel to the longitudinal axis, with the substrate edges being unconnected to any structure separate from the substrate by means other than the heat-activated adhesive.

34. (Previously Presented) The binder strip of Claim 33 wherein at least a majority of the first surface of the substrate is covered with the heat-activated adhesive.

35. (Previously Presented) The binder strip of Claim 29 wherein the first substrate surface and a second surface of the substrate, opposite the first substrate surface, are both substantially entirely smooth in all of surface regions directly opposite the mechanical deformations in the adhesive.

36. (Previously Presented) The binder strip of Claim 2 wherein the mechanically deforming is carried out so that essentially none of the adhesive is removed.

37. (Previously Presented) The binder strip of Claim 14 wherein the forming a multiplicity of grooves is carried out so that essentially none of the adhesive is removed.

38. (Previously Presented) The binder strip of Claim 20 wherein the mechanically deforming is carried out so that essentially none of the adhesive is removed.

39. (Previously Presented) The binding member of Claim 12 wherein the mechanical deformations are such that curling of the substrate along the transverse axis is substantially reduced.

Respectfully submitted,

GIRARD & EQUITZ LLP

Dated: June 23, 2008 By: _____

Philip A. Girard
Reg. No. 28,848

Attorneys for Applicant(s)

Attorney Docket No. PRKR-4500